



STAFF PHOTO

The Student Government Association executive board makes plans for the year. From left to right: Secretary Ruth Omoyinmi, Vice President Dayna Paul, President Maame Mensah and Parliamentarian Hannah Farrow. Omoyinmi returns to her position from last year. Mensah moves on from vice president to president.

Hackensack Bridge Links Campus, Divides Opinions

Special to The Equinox

The footbridge linking the Teaneck and Hackensack portions of the Fairleigh Dickinson Metro Campus is in the final stages of a reconstruction that was started at the end of Spring semester 2019.

The design of the work, which opened to pedestrians on the first Tuesday of the semester, is receiving mixed reviews from the FDU community.

“I thought the bridge was fine the way it was before,” said sophomore Jong Been Park. “I wish the money for the bridge was going to something more useful.”

The university opted to upgrade the bridge with the goal of improved aesthetics.

Richard Frick, vice president of facilities and

auxiliary services, told The Equinox last year that the bridge re-do was inspired by the High Line park in Manhattan.

“FDU did a nice job renovating the bridge in the short time they had,” said Junior Nicholas Incle. “It looks more appealing than it did before, and I believe it adds more character.”

The total cost of construction on the new bridge is estimated to be approximately \$4 million, said IBEW164 electrical worker Matt Roman from Fort Lee, a worker on the site.

The new bridge spans approximately 200 feet in length and 16 feet in width. At first glance, it has a slick look with a gray color and modern design.

The bridges upgrade includes tables, benches,

canopies and flowerbeds.

What it doesn’t have is access to cars.

One car, and perhaps the last one that crossed the bridge, may well have been that of President Obama, who transited it on a campus visit, said a bridge worker.

The bridge has a narrowed walkway, which may be an issue for bikers -- and others.

“I feel it will be a bit congested,” said Melissa Dalessio, a grad student.

“Even though my skater friends might not like it, you know, the [old bridge] was a killer skate spot -- this one doesn’t even have enough space,” said senior Will Marte.

Continued on Page 2

Can FDU, Surrounding Communitites Stave Off End of the World?

By SAMANTHA HART
Staff Writer

The Earth is dying. And it’s all our fault.

It’s a common topic, especially in FDU’s area of New Jersey being so close to New York City, which is notorious for its high levels of pollution.

Many assume that this climate crisis we’re a part of means it’s the end - if you will - and that nothing but more destruction, poverty, and deprivation can come of this. It may make someone feel like they shouldn’t even bother trying to clean up the environment because it’s too far gone.


But one person can only do their part in helping protect the environment. One person alone can’t reverse the damage that has been done to this Earth. One person can make a big difference in small acts of mindfulness, kindness, and community; and it starts right here in Hackensack.

The Earth is dying. But doing something small can help stop it.

One minor yet imperative step someone in the Teaneck or Hackensack area could take would be to support local food suppliers, like Giant Farmers Market on Main Street in Hackensack. Local foods, produce especially, is much better for the environment than food from big chain suppliers that are transported from great distances.

Local food requires less transportation from the farm or factory to the table, keeping its carbon footprint small. The short distance also decreases the refrigerator time that the produce requires which also decreases the carbon footprint, according to USA Today.

Another great way to help the environment in the area is to volunteer to clean up the Hackensack River.



Theta, the Greek symbol of death, was used to represent the first Earth day: “E” referring to environment and “O” to organism

1) Eat local greens

2) Clean up the community

3) Save the Earth

From April to November, the Hackensack Riverkeeper organization runs monthly cleanups of the Hackensack River either by cleaning up the river banks or properly disposing of any trash that is floating in the water.

Teaneck also has had the Teaneck Creek Conservancy since 2001. This grassroots foundation was started when a group of local teachers, plumbers, and businessmen got together as activists for the environment and Teaneck community to save areas of land from being used as landfills.

By 2006, the Teaneck Creek Park was established in a place that was once a dumping site. Today, this park can be visited daily and welcomes volunteers every Wednesday morning in the fall to help keep the site clean and ready for visitors.

By simply buying local food and produce, the environmental impacts are lessened. By cleaning up the Hackensack River or helping keep the Teaneck Creek Park from ever becoming a dumping site again.

The Earth is dying. But my community cares.

NEWS

BRIDGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It forces people to talk to each other, something that kind of gets lost nowadays," said assistant baseball coach Ethan Newton.

When completed, the bridge will be illuminated by lights every 2 feet.

That's a problem for Marte, the student.

"Whenever I walk around, I see swarms of bugs," he said. "They probably come from those lights."

"One more week before we finish with the electrical part and lighting of the bridge," said Roman, the electrical worker. "By the time we're done, the bridge will be completely lit."

Hopefully, "very lit," he said.

■

COMM 2833 (News Writing) students Nicole Fuchs, Karen Ramirez, Kyle Huber, Aishwarya Gandotra, Cindy (Binh) Nguyen, Anaya Ezeike and Anthony Covino contributed to this article.

e. the equinox



Graphic design major Brianna Garcia-Jaspe has been appointed The Equinox's cartoonist. For exclusive updates on Brianna's work, follow her on Instagram @unkown_dest and follow us @EquinoxFDU on Twitter and Instagram.

FDU Enters into Collegiate Climate Collaboration Across N.J.

By THE EQUINOX STAFF

The Equinox joins a select group of New Jersey college newspapers to collaborate on the issue of climate change organized by the Center for Collaborative Media at Montclair State University, as part of the New Jersey College News Commons (NJCNC).

The members of the Equinox that attended a launch event were editor-in-chief Admir Durakovic, managing editor Justin Rimpi, opinion editor Patrica Ressel-Deras and faculty advisor Mo Krochmal.

The event took place Aug. 23, 2019.

The other student newspapers that attended

this climate collaboration were The Montclarion from Montclair State University, The Vector from NJIT, The Signal from the College of New Jersey, The Gothic Times from New Jersey City University, and The Whit from Rowan University.

All of the newspapers involved in the NJCNC are focusing heavily on the issue of climate throughout their news coverage this semester.

The event took place at River Barge Park in Carlstadt, New Jersey. The attendees went on a pontoon boat ride and cruised down the Hackensack River with representatives from the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA, formerly the Meadowlands Commission) and the NY/NJ Baykeeper to learn about the issues and challenges facing the river and other Garden State waterways.

The event was organized by Joe Amdidits from the Center for Collaborative Media at Montclair State University.

Three guest speakers present at this event were: John Schwartz, a science writer for The New York Times focusing on climate



ADMIR DURAKOVIC

N.J. student media organizations board boats for a tour of the Meadowlands

change; Maya Miller, who covers health and climate for Climate Central; and Michael Sol Warren, an environment and outdoors reporter for NJ Advance Media and NJ.com.

The Equinox looks forward to covering an important issue that affects not only our immediate

community but the entire world.

The Equinox will join NJIT's The Vector in reporting on how commuters and their methods of transportation affect the climate of the communities between, and including, the two campuses.

Save the Date

FDU STUDENT UNION BUILDING

50 YEARS

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

For the Campus Community

OCTOBER 10TH, 2019, 12PM-2PM

RUTHERFORD ROOM

FDU
Student Union Building

OPINION



Hong Kong and the Price for Freedom

By CINDY (BINH) NGUYEN
Layout & Design Editor

On September 6, masked pro-democracy protesters returned to the streets of Hong Kong.

They vandalized several subway stops, set fires and some targeted laser pointers at police officers. Four of the demonstrators were attacked by riot officers using batons and pepper spray.

Even after Hong Kong’s Chief Executive Carrie Lam announced on Sept. 4 that she would formally withdraw a contentious extradition bill, the protest movement showed no signs of coming to an end.

Watching how pro-democracy demonstrations in Hong Kong took a violent turn brings about mixed feelings.

On one hand, since Hongkongers don’t have much liberty in the polls, it is understandable why they would protest. On the other hand, the impacts on-going demonstrations have on the people and the city raises the question: Is it worth it?

Looking Outside In

Speaking as a foreigner, free-riders who benefit from Hong Kong’s open economy are not in a place to judge the actions of those who shed their blood and sacrificed their time to protect the city and to pursue what they believe is right.

Approximately a million Hongkongers peacefully protested against a proposed amendment that would allow extradition to China, a country notorious for imprisoning citizens who dissent against the government or raise their voice in support of human rights.

The amendment would legalize China’s extradition of people from Hong Kong’s territory and lock them up in China. Given the fact that the Chinese government has attempted to wield more control over Hong Kong in recent years, many Hongkongers are afraid of what the future may hold.



BILLY H.C. KWOK / GETTY IMAGES

The fight over the extradition law expanded into something much bigger, affecting the future of democracy in Hong Kong.

The Chinese government has already been accused of meddling in Hong Kong regardless of Hong Kong’s independent legal system and borders until 2047, which were acknowledged by Mainland China in the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration.

Peaceful Protests End

The protests in early June turned violent as the police started to use force against the protesters.

The riots went on for months, causing enormous damages, such as a city-wide strike on Aug. 1 and serious disruption of flights at Hong Kong Airport on Aug. 12 and 13.

Thirteen weeks after the first (peaceful) protest, the rift between the police and the protesters deepened. What started in June as a demonstration of dissatisfaction over a proposed extradition bill extended far beyond that.

Protesters called for the release of arrested demonstrators, a complete

redaction of the word “riots” used by the government to associate demonstrators, an independent inquiry into the police and a legitimate opportunity for Hong Kong citizens to vote for their leaders.

The scale of the turmoil in Hong Kong has reached dangerous levels.

Kerry Brown, a professor of Chinese studies at King’s College London, predicted the political unrest to be “Tiananmen 2.0,” referring to the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre when Chinese troops assaulted the unarmed demonstrators in Beijing.

Foreign Clash Goes Viral

One popular video that circulated Twitter in August showed an Australian man clashing with a group of young protesters when his flight out of Hong Kong was canceled.

“The sooner Hong Kong becomes a part of mainland China, which it was actually designed to be, the better it’s going to be,” he said in the clip. This man is an example

of free-riders, who consider Hong Kong no more than a travel destination, a tax haven, and a perfect business base.

What free-riders are often unaware of is that the ship they are on can overturn anytime, and once it happens, the benefits they are familiar with will slip away.

The Consequences

If the communist government in China manages to impose their system on Hong Kong, the freedom the Australian man had enjoyed will be tarnished

What’s more important, when the situation deteriorates, free-riders still have an option of jumping ship.

Visitors will not spend their entire life in Hong Kong. Businessmen around the world have other places to call home. Tourists can always change their destinations.

Memories of Hong Kong only enrich the lives of free-riders, while locals face the consequences. Hong Kong’s capitalist system and lifestyles are their home and

where their hearts set.

Therefore, let Hong Kong speak for itself and face its future head-on.

Let the citizens of Hong Kong make their opinions heard. This is the time we watch and learn (from both the good and the bad).

People with access to the news should pay attention and remain neutral. An FDU student from Hong Kong, who has wished to be anonymous, compared Hong Kong’s special status with Puerto Rico being a self-governed territory of the United States. “If this situation was between Puerto Rico and the USA, it would be no different.” She said, “People judge others because the issue doesn’t affect them personally.”

The current political unrest in Hong Kong is not as distant as most people think. Any country and any people could encounter political crises, police violence, abuse of power, and/or suppression of human rights. When that time comes, we may wish the free-riders to be silent and the world to listen.

Have something to say?
Write to us!
the equinox

Story recommendations will be considered for further research and coverage. Letters and comments up to 250 words sent via email will be considered for publication and may be edited for grammar, content, and length. All letters must include a full name, university affiliation, and phone number for verification. (Phone number will not be published.)

Email:
equinoxfd@gmail.com

Gun Safety: An Important Issue for FDU

EDITORIAL

As more and more innocent lives are lost at the hands of gun violence, the trite response of “thoughts and prayers” holds less water. The time for action has come, and gone, seemingly hundreds of times, but yet here we stand with no sensible gun legislation being talked about in a serious manner by the Republican Party in Congress.

The topic of gun control is not one that will go away soon unless legislation is passed. If not, the ill-effects of Congressional inaction will continue to reverberate for decades.

The issue of guns is one that is front and center on the minds of students here at Fairleigh Dickinson University. They are concerned about innocent lives being lost

each and every day, and are wondering when Congress will stand up and say “enough is enough.”

Students believe, as do many Americans, that assault weapons should not be on our streets in 2019, and the time has come for sensible gun control measures.

The fascination this country has with their guns is one that is difficult to comprehend, which makes the habitual congressional inaction even more difficult to swallow.

The belief that these senseless attacks will not happen in the Northeast because of the region’s stricter gun control went out the window in 2012 when the school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary took place. This horrific incident occurred in the state of Connecticut, which is firmly entrenched in the

northeast. These sorts of incidents bring the issue of gun control closer and closer to home.

Also, with the FDU campus being so wide open, whether it be in the dining halls, dormitories or classrooms, seemingly any person can come onto the campus undeterred and possibly cause harm to unsuspecting members of the FDU community.

With each and every incident seen on the news surrounding gun violence, the fear among FDU students grows. Will something unspeakable happen on this campus due to the ease of access for all types of people? We pray not!

Even though the FDU campus was voted the safest college campus in the state of New Jersey last year, this does not put the students minds any more at ease.



DAGNEY GROMER

The topic of gun control never seems to lose relevancy, partly because of the gun culture in this country.

Or, let them sleep any more comfortably at night.

In a situation like this, perception is greater than reality.

The issue of guns is one the FDU students care deeply about, and they

would like to see measures put in place so their children will not have to grow up in a world where mass shootings are nothing out of the norm, instead of an event worthy of a national outcry.

From the Editor’s Desk: An Open Letter to the FDU Community



EQUINOX

By **ADMIR DURAKOVIC**
Editor-in-Chief

Being a part of The Equinox staff has been a tremendous experience for me during my FDU career. I’ve learned so much from my first year as a staff writer under then Editor-in-Chief Theresa King and former academic advisor Dr. Battistoli.

Last fall I was fortunate enough to continue that growth and work in a leadership role for The Equinox alongside then Editor-in-Chief Armand Butera and academic advisor Professor Krochmal. Working alongside all of them and the rest of the staff was an unforgettable experience I’ll always treasure.

This past spring I was slated to take over as Editor-in-Chief from Armand who had graduated in the winter. Unfortunately, about two weeks before the semester started, I was diagnosed with stage 2b Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. The circumstances forced our would be managing editor, Maya Page, to step up into the editor-in-chief position. Alongside her managing editor Justin Rimpi, Professor Krochmal,

and the rest of the staff, they were all able to carry on the flame of The Equinox and I couldn’t be more proud of the work they accomplished.

At the same time, all of my predecessors have left a very high bar for us to clear this school year. My goal will always be to improve, not only what we have been able to build so far, but to also build on and improve with every story we publish.

Many talented reporters and writers have returned to help The Equinox serve its community to the best of our ability. My interests and the editors’ interests will continue to be the same interests of the student body, faculty and staff, as well as the larger Teaneck/Hackensack community.

There is a lot of news to cover from campus events and changes, to local and national politics, and even

climate change will be a major issue I plan to tackle this semester.

We are always happy to build upon our staff of writers, reporters, photographers, and designers. I encourage anyone who has an interest in working for The Equinox and serving and informing their community to reach out to us. Being a part of the paper has been a tremendous experience for me. We have an excellent and welcoming staff in place to help anyone become a better writer or designer.

I look forward to what is in store for The Equinox this year. I will be forever grateful to the entire FDU community for their support during my recovery period. The Equinox staff in particular were never far away from me this past spring and I look forward to

paying them back for their compassion and their trust in me to lead them into this year.

The paper has already proven it doesn’t need me to exist and that is because of the excellent staff that work their hardest behind the scenes to become the voice this community deserves. Together we will all work to accomplish the goals we have set before ourselves. I cannot wait for our readers to see the fruits of our labor.

As a part of being the voice for the community, I am interested in hearing what our readers would like us to cover in future editions.

Please feel free to email us at equinoxfdu@wgmail.com, or message us on Twitter and Instagram @equinoxfdu.



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ENTERTAINMENT

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Astral Chain Entices Gamers Through Characters, Combat, Storytelling

By DYLAN DEL RIO
Staff Writer

Platinumgames Inc. are game developers with a very unique style. Most of their popular games are 3-D action games with a major focus on combat that reward the player for performing various combos and using a variety of different moves and weapons. Their most notable games, Bayonetta and Nier: Automato, relish in these mechanics and are well loved because of it. Their latest game Astral Chain feels like a marriage between those two series. It combines the fast paced combat of Bayonetta with the world building side quests from Nier Automato to make a surprisingly engaging and addicting experience. Astral Chain is set in the year 2078 where humanity is facing a world ending threat. The earth is under attack by inter-dimensional monsters known as Chimeras who appear through “red gates” to cause destruction and drag civilians back to their home dimension, the Astral Plain. They also spread “red matter,” an infection that can corrupt people and turn them into human/chimera hybrids. The remaining population have retreated to a massive safe zone known as “The Ark” which is watched over by the Neuron Police Task Force led by Yoseph Calvert. After years of research, Yoseph has created a weapon to fight back



DYLAN DEL RIO

The custom character is personalized down to the weapon of choice for combat.

against Chimeras. The legions are a group of captured Chimeras that Neuron officers can control via a psychic chain. The main character is a young man/woman (gender can be selected) who is recruited into Neuron after saving several officers from a rampaging chimera. However, things quickly take a turn for the worst, and in the end, the rookie is the only officer with access to a legion, which makes them humanity’s only hope. The story overall is rather derivative but that’s not necessarily a bad thing. While there will be times where once a character or concept is introduced you can easily see where it is going well in advance. It also has a constant sense of energy that makes it

very entertaining. A lot of the characters are very engaging with the most glaring exception being the main character. Unlike previous Platinumgames protagonists like this character never talk which is kind of disappointing especially since Nier: Automato and Bayonetta had main characters with voices and personalities that made them more compelling. It is a problem that becomes less noticeable later on, but it feels like a cop out. Gameplay wise Astral Chain mainly focuses on combat. The main character is armed with an X-baton as a weapon that can morph into a blade, a pistol, and finally a two-handed sword each of which have their own trengths and weaknesses. They also

can dodge attacks and if they dodge a blow at the last second they can temporarily slow down time. The player also has access to a legion that they can summon to assist them in either combat or exploration. Initially they only have access to the sword legion that focuses on fast-paced close ranged combat but as the story progresses you gain access to other legions with their own abilities. Another important gameplay mechanic are the “cases” which are tasks that revolve around assisting various NPCs around the Ark. Red cases primarily focus on combat and blue cases are more varied side quests. Performing these missions earns the player money and DNA points, which they can use to buy items, customize

their character, and upgrade their weapons and legions. There are also many times where the main character has to traverse the “Astral Plane” which usually combines the elements of exploration and combat as well as light puzzle solving. One downside to the Astral Plane is that design wise most of the areas blend into each other and by the third or fourth visit it kind of gets exhausting visually. For the most part the game controls well but a major sticking point is with the Beast Legion. The player has the ability to ride him to travel around faster but it feels incredibly loose.

In an open area it is not so bad but there are several times in the Astral Plane where you have to ride on the beast while the floor below you gives way and it can be insanely frustrating. Also while most of the blue cases are enjoyable there are a select few that can be really annoying, like one where you have to drag a bunch of cars out of a road. Astral Chain is a rather unique game. While there are some moments that are utterly frustrating it does enough right to make up for it. The moment-to-moment combat is engaging while the side quests are mostly fun little diversions that help develop the world around you. While the story is nothing amazing the supporting characters and their arcs make it worth playing through.



‘Ready or Not’: Should It Be Classified as a Horror Film or Just Horrible?

By ELIZABETH SCALZO
Entertainment Editor

As October quickly approaches new horror films are on the rise. This cycle of releases for horror fanatics usually begins half way through August and will last all the way through October. One of the earlier movies that was released came out on Aug. 21, 2019, and titled “Ready or Not.” The premise of the film is a family who became rich after their great grandfather made a deal with a rich traveler, and from there, he made his millions in the card and boardgame industry. Now a sweet girl, Grace, who struggled through a life in the foster care system is marrying into the family to the son named Alex. Grace always wanted a family and even after the wedding, she still felt uneasy

about how much Alex’s family truly cared for her. Alex then explained to her that in order to become a part of the family she must first play a game. Once in the family room, Grace had the family history explained to her, and pulled a card which was hide and seek. Grace was given the objective to stay hidden until dawn. What she didn’t discover until hearing a gun shot is that her newfound family wasn’t only trying to find her, but trying to kill her. Alex escapes the room he is kept in because the family believed he would be an interference and tries to help Grace escape throughout the film. Grace later finds out that when the hide and seek card is pulled that she has to die because the family is told if they don’t make a sacrifice their whole family

will explode. The simple idea of having Grace on the run was supposed to create the horror aspect in this film. However, the film had far more of a thriller feel. Throughout the film Grace escapes possible death on multiple occasions, but continues to find a way to power through. Now the gore factor is on par with the lines of a horror movie. Grace suffers the most from it because of being on the run from death. The audience will experience many wound reveals with lots of blood, but does gore alone classify a movie as a horror movie? While examining the movie there was a large amount of comedic relief. Alex’s sister Charity is the largest comedic relief throughout the movie as she accidentally kills several innocent people and

questions why they can’t be used in the sacrifice. There are several jokes made about the sanity of rich people and how they will do anything, including sacrificing a human, to keep their money. Overall, “Ready or Not” doesn’t seem to fall into one genre of film. While the film has the gore to match a horror film the rest of the movie seems like a thriller. Now horror films and thrillers seem to go hand in hand in the thematic production scene currently, but there has to be a line drawn somewhere. Maybe that line is the amount of comedic relief allowed into the film or maybe the amount of jump scares given to the audience. A film premised off of an innocent childhood game gone twisted could easily fit either category of horror or thriller, but overall the

creators gave the audience a fast-paced movie that had intense plot twists and lots of blood which is on par with a traditional horror film. Horror season is officially here and movie goers everywhere won’t be disappointed.



IMDB

Movie poster for ‘Ready or Not’

Silent Headphones Party

On Thursday,w Aug. 29, 2019, the Silent Headphones Party was held at FDU’s Knight Club in the SUB

All photos courtesy of Cindy (Binh) Nguyen



Sara Perez
Senior

“I’ve never been to a silent party before. The concept sounds really interesting. The Knight Club has done a pretty good job with their events so it’s gonna be a lot of fun tonight.”



Naniyah McClain
Sophomore

“I’ve seen people dancing wearing headphones at this kind of party on social media and it looks so cool. And you know, it’s Thursday night so here I am with my girlfriends.”



Chloe Colmenares
Freshman

“I am a part of the organizing team for the party. My job tonight is keeping track of people that come in. Everyone looks so excited to be here, so it’ll be a special night.”

Karaoke Knight

On Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2019, at 9p.m., the annual Welcome Week Karaoke Knight was held in the Knight Club in the Student Union Building. This event always draws a large crowd and many brave students get up to sing in front of a crowd of people. Mercedes Zea, a senior on campus, was the first to get up and sing and did so because she simply loves to sing. As the night went on, several students found the courage to get up on stage, which made the event a success.

All photos courtesy of Elizabeth Scalzo

Mercedes Zea, senior communications major



From left to right: Adam Matter, sophomore psychology major, and Zane Matter, pharmaceutical grad student



Organization Fair 2019

The Equinox was in attendance at the Fall 2019 Organization Fair, and so were other student organizations. Editor-in-Chief Admir Durakovic was there to photograph them on campus. If there's a story you would like to share about your organization, contact us at equinoxfd@gmail.com or follow us at [@equinoxfd](https://www.instagram.com/equinoxfd).

All photos courtesy of Admir Durakovic



"There were a lot of freshmen today, it's good to see the freshman coming out to learn about the school community," Bryan Tapia.

Left to right, top to bottom:

Kalyssa Nufable, Sam Rivera, Ediza Koch, Nikki Dimayuga, Danielle Hipolito, Bryan Tapia, Christ Hernandez.



From left to right: Cindy Nguyen, Elizabeth Scalzo



From left to right: Zachary Savage, Carlene Byrd

"My favorite thing about the org fair was everybody coming out, everybody seeing the different organizations, and people finding their interests. It was nice, I think it's good for the community," Aboky said.

Left to right:

Jonathan Aboky, vice president and Steffon Tucker, public relations



STUDENT LIFESTYLE

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A Musical Matter: How One Student Expresses Himself

By **PATRICIA RESSELL-
DERAS**
Opinion Editor

Few people can confidently say they joined a successful band, and even less can say they performed in front of more than 500 people. But Adam Matter can.

Matter, a sophomore psychology major, can be described as a friendly, outgoing student. You may have even met him in class, during a campus visit or maybe you have seen him perform guitar covers at the Lyricist Lounge.

Matter is not a new face to the spotlight. He has actually been performing for more than six years.

“I like playing music for people. I really like music and I just want to contribute to something,” Matter says.

Like many musicians, Matter’s musical career began at an early age. “I got Guitar Hero 3 when I was 7,” Matter says. “And I was like ‘okay, I need to start learning guitar now.’ And I tried, and I hated it.”

But Matter soon grew into his love for music. In middle school, Matter decided to give guitar another shot and “fell in love” with it, and the music.

Since then he has been playing his guitar every opportunity he gets. “Any event on campus where they are looking for anybody to play an instrument or sing, I just go,” Matter says.



Adam Matter performing at the German School of Alexandria, Egypt

From the Lyricist Lounge and Karaoke Knights, to big events like The Fashion Show or Black Girl Magic. Matter has been a part of them all.

On occasion, he has been known to pair up with other student performers, like Victoria Cruz.

One thing many may not know about Matter was that he was part of a band back home in Egypt.

A group of friends created the band “Fakhfakheena,” which he says translates from Arabic into a “native Egyptian

cocktail.” The band name truly reflected the music that they played. Just like the cocktail, Fakhfakheena performs a mix of genres.

Not only is Matter a performer, he is also a music teacher back in Egypt. At his sister’s German school, he has taught children ages 12-16 how to play musical instruments, and even performed with them on stage.

“I spent a month of non-stop rehearsals for it,” Matter says. “My favorite thing was

that I taught the whole band the songs on the drums, violin, keyboard, vocals, guitar and bass.”

When asked who his inspirations are, Matter immediately mentions his father with no hesitation. “I’ve loved music my whole life and my dad is one of the biggest reasons why I like music. He’s a big inspiration,” Matter says.

“My dad wanted to play an instrument since he was a little kid, but never could because he couldn’t afford to buy an instrument or have somebody to teach him. So now that he has kids and he can afford it, ‘Y’all learning!’”

This fact is supported by Matter’s older brother and sister playing the drums and piano, respectively.

One of Matter’s big musical inspirations is Travis Barker, an American drummer who is best known for being in the rock band, Blink-182.

“He’s very flexible,” Matter says. “He’s collaborated with Kanye West, Eminem and so many other people. That’s what I like about him. No matter what, he just keeps going.”

While Matter would love a career as a musician, as of now, it is not in his plans due to “risk” involved in the music industry. “...but you never know, maybe in the future,” Matter says.

Who knows maybe one day we may have the chance to see Matter perform on one of the many American stages.

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Snowball7091@aol.com
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Interested in hosting a radio show for the Fall Semester? Come join the student voice of Fairleigh Dickinson University, 89.1 WFDU-HD3. No experience necessary!

Teaching Acting Is His Best Role: Professor Shane Taylor

By **MADISON MARTINEZ**
Staff Writer

Under University Hall, on the worn floorboards of the Russell Ratsch Theatre, stands a fresh face taking on his new role as professor. Professor Shane Taylor, an adjunct professor, is a new theater instructor at FDU. Although he worked here last year, this is his first time teaching theatre classes while Professor James Rana is away on his theatrical pursuits.

“I enjoy it very much,” Taylor says about his classes. “The students are interested in learning and challenge me to be my best...[they] are game to jump into the deep end of the pool and take risks.”

Taylor is happy to be working at FDU, not only for its students, but also for the promises FDU grants its professors, he says.

He has been admiring FDU for years.

“I’ve been interested in joining the FDU family since I began my professional career,” Taylor said says. “They have a diverse student body and offer interesting courses. All of these characteristics contribute to making this a learning experience for me as

well.”

As an adjunct professor, Taylor has a limited schedule teaching at FDU, only working on campus on Tuesdays. Despite the short timeframe, he makes the most of his time with his students and faculty members.

“Sometimes you feel as if you don’t have a voice,” Taylor said about being an adjunct instructor. “But I’ve been lucky to work with colleagues who recognize the value that I bring.”

Taylor has an enriched background in theatre, having trained in the Williamstown Theatre Festival and American Conservatory Theater. He has an MFA from Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts. However, what truly makes him an authority on the theater is his many performances as a professional actor.

“I’ve been fortunate enough to perform in close to 45 professional theatrical productions around the country since I was in my late teens,” he says.

This isn’t an easy feat, as Taylor says. “Working as a professional actor is mostly out of your control. Most of the actor’s work is the pursuit of work.” He is grateful for each new role he gets to take.

As for his teaching strategy, Taylor often takes his own experiences as a professional actor and applies them to his lessons.

“I’m lucky to have had many[wonderful experiences]. It’s great to be able to connect lessons in my classes to my professional experience. I think my students appreciate this.”

Students appreciate a professor who is honest in his pursuits and a professor that continues to learn, and that is one of Taylor’s strengths. An example of this is when he described one of his favorite roles.

Shephard Mallory from the play “Ben Butler,” a comedy based on the events of General Ben Butler during the Civil War. This role is one of Taylor’s favorites because he has played it not once, but twice.

“Revisiting the role enabled me to go deeper into the given circumstances of the play...I was able to step further into Mallory’s shoes [and] I learned a tremendous amount from him. Mallory seems to be the gift that keeps giving,” Taylor says.

And as Mallory gave to Taylor, Taylor gives to the FDU students.



EMILY LAMBERT

Professor Taylor is a seasoned theatrical performer, who plans to use his experiences on stage to help influence his teaching style.



Campus Food: Upgrades or Just Changes?

By **ELIZABETH SCALZO**
Entertainment Editor

It’s no surprise that students at Fairleigh Dickinson University Metropolitan Campus have a discrepancy with the food that is served on a day to day basis. Freshmen seem to have the worst of luck with having a meal plan that gives them an unlimited number of swipes to the Student Union Building’s (SUB) cafeteria. Many students dread eating at the SUB and for good reason with the limited options. One too many Taco Tuesdays is enough to drive any person crazy. The quality of the food had always just been average with the occasional really bad days. However, it seems the SUB has made some changes.

If you have ever eaten in the SUB you know there are some things that never change. There is always pizza, a salad bar, some sort of pasta, fries, grilled chicken, burgers and hot dogs. Then each day there is a different option for the main course they are serving.

There usually was two different sections in the main course that gave students a few options to choose from with protein, veggies and usually some sort of carb. Many students have noticed this year that since the food

quality is seemingly better, there is only one option for the meal.

The SUB has added some new things for students to take advantage of. For example, the grill has extended their hours so students can receive things like cheesesteaks throughout the day. They also have been putting onion rings and sweet potato fries into the rotation, along with always having regular fries.

One of the food stations that was added is freshly made pasta. Before there was just a sad overcooked pan of noodles with watery alfredo or red sauce. This year students can choose their type of pasta, sauce, up to five veggies and meat if they want.

When speaking to some students about their thoughts on the changes to the SUB, the remarks were intriguing.

“I definitely think it’s obvious that they’re trying to make some changes,” sophomore Adam Matter said. “I mean did you see how sad the pasta station was before. I just don’t know if they will keep up with the changes as the weeks go on. The food has always seemed better at the beginning of the semester.”

It will be interesting to see if the food stays at the current new quality. With some new staff, the students

can hope the food won’t fall back to the previous state of mediocrity.

The SUB isn’t the only campus eatery to have made some changes. Riverside Café has changed their menu this semester and some students aren’t exactly happy about it.

Riverside Café used to be home to freshly made sushi and teriyaki bowls, but during the spring of 2019 they disappeared. This was simply because the chef who was in charge of making these items has left the university.

Even though these two big menu items have disappeared, it hasn’t stopped students from stoping in at Riverside Café. This may be because of the Starbucks within Riverside Café and the fact that they are offering rewards.

While you can’t use Starbucks gift cards on campus, junior Lexi Martinez disclosed that if you purchase anything that is considered a specialty drink you can receive a stamp card that you can earn a free drink with.

Campus food seems to be improving, even if it is only by the tiniest of steps. But any improvement is great for our campus. To all the freshmen, use your flex dollars wisely because there may be a time where the SUB food does go downhill again, but only time will tell.



ADMIR DURAKOVIC

FDU Students Enjoying the Updates at the Dining Hall.



CAMPUS CORNER



Periodically Speaking: News From the Giovatto

KATHY STEIN-SMITH, PH.D, ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES, GIOVATTO LIBRARY



Welcome back, students! Best wishes for the new academic year from all of us at the Library

During the summer, the FDU Library welcomed University Librarian, Ana Fontoura, and said good-bye to longtime Periodicals Coordinator, Maryann Sena.

Best wishes to Ana, in her new role, and to Maryann, in her retirement.

The FDU Library web page and online catalog have a new look, but continue to provide the same information about the Library and access to its collections and services.

In addition to the research assistance provided by librarians at the

reference desk and class sessions scheduled by your professors, walk-in Library workshops on a variety of specialized topics are scheduled on a regular basis throughout the semester. Just check the weekly Trumba calendar.

In addition to scheduled workshops, small-group and individual one-on-one sessions with a librarian are available by appointment.

Please contact Paul Dunphy, at pdunphy@fdu.edu, for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Librarians can help you find the best information, and find it fast!

Library Collections Just for You

Students can borrow books, magazines, and DVDs from the Library and access a world of online information through the FDU online Library, available wherever you are with your FDU Net ID.

If you know which items you would like to check out, Library staff are more than happy to have them ready to go for you at the Circulation Desk. Just ask for express check-out. For more information, or to request items, please contact Debbie Daniele, at ddaniele@fdu.edu, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 AM until 4 PM.

If the book or article you need is not in the FDU Library collection, librarians and staff are more than happy to request it for you through interlibrary loan. Requests may be placed at the Library or online at <https://fdu.libguides.com/ILL>

Wroxton Tea and Interest Meeting

Wednesday, October 23rd @ 2 PM



Giovatto Library Hours Fall 2019

Monday – Thursday
8:00 AM – 11:00 PM

Friday
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Saturday
10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Sunday
12 noon – 10:00 PM

Extended Library Hours for Midterms

Friday, October 4th, until 8 PM

Saturday, October 5th, until 7 PM

Sunday, October 6th, open early @ 9 AM

Sunday, October 20th, open early @ 9 AM

Extended Library and Study Hall Hours for Finals TBA

Closing at 5 PM on Tuesday, November 26th; Closed November 27th – December 1st, in observance of Thanksgiving

Closing at 5 PM on Monday, December 23rd; Closed December 24th, 2019 – January 1st, 2020

PUBLIC SAFETY BLOTTER

8/26/19 – Suspicious person observed in North lot. Individual was asked to leave

8/31/19 – Non-student and ex-boyfriend of current student came to Student Union building and was asked to leave campus.

9/2/19 – Student reported being punched by a non-student in North lot.

9/3/19 – Student was burning incense in Northpointe room.

9/5/19 – Student reported his bicycle was taken without consent from outside area of University Court 5. Bicycle was returned.

9/8/19 – Dispute between two students in University Court 8.

FROM THE DESK OF DAVID MILES

David Miles Welcomes Back FDU Students

On behalf of the Department of Public Safety, I want to welcome all students back to the campus. We hope that you all had an enjoyable and safe summer.

Public Safety is tasked with enforcing the parking rules and regulations on campus.

I have said many times that there is plenty of parking on the campus but it just might not be convenient.

Students can only park in spaces with white lines. Yellow lines are for Faculty and Staff.

If you do park illegally you can be issued a campus summons.

More than one summons can mean that your vehicle can have a parking immobilizer placed on it.

If you are unsure of the proper campus parking areas, and how to avoid a summons, please go to the Public Safety section of the University website and all parking information is listed.

Please familiarize yourself with the information so you do not receive summonses.

Besides parking, Public Safety is responsible for the safety and security of all that come to the campus.

We strive on a constant basis to make the campus

safe and we do enlist the assistance and support of all members of the campus community.

We are hoping that everyone takes an interest in maintaining a safe campus.

If you See Something, Say Something.

Report anything that is suspicious or seems out of the norm.

Even if you are unsure if you should report something, we do ask that you contact Public Safety so we can properly investigate.

I believe if everyone works together, then we can continue to make this campus safe for everyone.

I want to wish everyone a great semester.

Please remember to like the Department of Public Safety on Facebook at FDU Metro Department of Public Safety or follow us on Twitter @FDUMetroPS.

If at any time you have any questions or concerns regarding Public Safety, please do not hesitate to contact me at 201 692-2227 or dmiles@fdu.edu.

This is an edited repeat of David Miles' column from the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

SPORTS



Brad Hurlbut, FDU Athletic Director: He’s Got a Plan

BY ANTHONY COVINO
Sports Editor

The Equinox sat down with new athletic director Brad Hurlbut on Friday Sept. 10, 2019, to hear about his plans for the department.

Equinox: “What are the expectations for men’s basketball this year after last year’s triumphant run?”

Hurlbut: “I think the expectations are high. We’d love to see us challenge again for a regular-season championship as well as the tournament. I think expectations are high and they should be. We’ve got a great nucleus returning, with our coach at the helm and I think we got a good shot.”

Equinox: “What’s the goal for men’s soccer this year?”

Hurlbut: “I don’t know about goals, but I am really excited about the start they have had, winning up at UCONN, a nationally ranked program like that, and to follow it up with another big program victory win over Gonzaga. A revenge game for sure. I would hope that we qualify for the NEC Tournament and then the NCAA’s. The rankings just came out and were receiving some votes for the top 25 poll and were ranked second in the northeast region.”

Equinox: Why did you feel that baseball needed a coaching change?



FDU Knights

Hurlbut: “I just felt that we needed a change in leadership there, and I think that Coach Rob Ditoma brings is unmatched in what we’ve had in a long time. I think that coming from a winning program like Fordham, it’s going to help us a lot and he’s done a great job in the couple months he’s been here.”

Equinox: “Why did you feel that women’s basketball needed a coaching change?”

Hurlbut: “Again, I went right down over the river to Fordham to find Coach Ang Szumilo and she comes from a more established program. We’re really thrilled, and I think with both of those programs it’s going to take

time and I don’t expect to see immediate changes on the field, but we’re already seeing changes off the field.”

Equinox “How will the Under Armour deal help FDU Athletics as a whole with our profile?”

Hurlbut: “I think it’s great to be partnered with such a great company says a lot and it helps our brand immensely and for us as an athletic department to have all of our programs underneath one brand, and the UA brand is so cool. We’re thrilled about that partnership and we’re just in the first couple months of it, and we’ll continue to grow it.

Equinox: “How do you plan to expand the support for smaller

teams like fencing, track, tennis, and golf?”

Hurlbut: The issues with a lot of those sports is not on their campus, but every campus is that the population likes to come see baseball, basketball, football, and lacrosse. Golf is always hard, you can have a national championship program and it’s hard to get people to come out to golf events for a couple reasons. The golf courses aren’t on campus, and the golf courses are five miles long; so, normally it’s just the parents and friends from the athletic department.

Tennis is different, but our issue is that we don’t really have a place for people to sit down so we need to figure out that and that’ll be a part of our facility master plan we’re gonna do. I was pleasantly surprised at how many people were here to support them.”

Equinox: “What are the specific goals for FDU sports and or athletics this year as a whole?”

Hurlbut: “We’re looking for improvement from top to bottom. One of the major things that were doing is trying to get the community to embrace us more. Our FDU community, Teaneck community, and Hackensack community, and one way we’re going about that is doing community service and really being involved in the community, is something that we really haven’t done to that high of a bar, that I would like us to see, and

as evidence of our baseball team that packed snack packs together for kids who might go hungry on the weekends, so those are the type of things we want to see. We want to get out in the community more, that’s our main goal.

I made a goal of ours last year to do better in the Commissioner’s cup, that’s not going to be overnight, but that’s how were compared with everyone else in our conference, so I want to be able to grow our standings each year in points, and we could move up a few spots, we used to get Commissioner’s Cups, so I want to go back to winning Commissioners’ Cups.

Our goal is the NEC has a Building Communities Award and we want to win that award, and that is for the university with the most hours of community service. That is really our main goal this year.

Equinox: “What can you tell me about a possible football team at FDU?”

Hurlbut: I would say that is not even being thought of right now. I love that idea. The amount of money, having a field, locker room space. There a lot of things that go into that like, scholarships, all those types of things. While I love the idea, I don’t think it’s a possibility right now, but I’ll tell you this, if you want to watch football, we can go to the Florham Campus and watch their football team.”

Men’s Soccer Redeems FDU with 3-1 Win Over Gonzaga and Extend Winning Streak to Two

BY ANTHONY COVINO
Sports Editor

The Knights defeated Gonzaga 3-1 on Sunday, Sept. 8 in their home opener to improve their record to 3-1 on the season. Gonzaga fell to 0-4 on the season. The Knights extend their winning streak to two games.

This is not the first time Spokane, Wash.-Gonzaga has faced FDU, as the top seeded Bulldogs defeated FDU in the NCAA Basketball tournament in March.

The home opener for the Knights was a sizzling one, with clear skies most of the match. The sun was beaming down on the stands most of the game, but when the

clouds came rolling in, the crowd let out a sigh of relief and joy as cool air came in.

The Knights gave up an early goal in the 9th minute to Gonzaga, scored by junior midfielder Theo O’Malley and assisted by senior forward Isaiah Jackson.

The Knights leveled the game in the 31st minute, when sophomore forward Joshua Ferreira scored on a bad clearance from the Gonzaga defense. Going into halftime the score was tied 1-1.

Sophomore midfielder Ideal Shefqeti gave the Knights the lead in the 51st minute with a long laser beam shot from outside the box.

The goal was assisted by junior defender Adrian

Barajas and freshman defender Jared Subarsky.

Six minutes after the Knights’ second goal, they won a penalty, and junior forward Diego Arribas scored from the spot to give the Knights a 3-1 lead. The Knights defense held up the rest of the game after giving up an early goal.

FDU men’s soccer head coach Seth Roland said “The first ten minutes we were controlling the ball, but they got one counter and we lost our concentration and they scored, but we kept our poise, kept playing. At halftime we tried to pick up the tempo a little bit and Ideal [Shefqeti] scored a great goal and Diego [Arribas] with a great run to be taken down in the box and



Anthony Covino

Junior goalkeeper Jahmali Waite recorded two saves in the win.

finishing the penalty more and Josh [Ferreira] coming

in as a sub for the first goal with his speed intercepted it

and snuck it away.”

The Knights will resume play when they travel to play Cornell on Saturday Sept. 14, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

The Directors, faculty and staff of all
Schools welcome new and returning students

**WE WISH YOU A
WONDERFUL YEAR!**

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Gildart Haase School of Computer Sciences and Engineering

School of Criminal Justice, Political Science, & International
Studies

Peter Sammartino School of Education

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